

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 18-23 are pending in the application.

The Examiner objected to Claims 1-7 because of informalities. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18, 19 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brittan (U.S. Publication 2002/0184030) in view of Koyama ("A Highly Intelligible Speech Synthesis for Banking Services in Financial Network System ANSER", Interactive Voice Technology for Telecommunications Applications, 1998. IVTTA '98. Proceedings), and further in view of Tarlton (U.S. Publication 2005/0027523). The Examiner has rejected Claims 4-7, 12-15 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brittan in view of Koyama, and further in view of Lu (U.S. Patent 5,819,260).

Please amend Claim 1 as set forth herein. No new matter has been added.

Regarding the objection to the claims, Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner. Based on at least the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claim 1-7 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18, 19 and 24 under §103(a), the Examiner alleges that Brittan, in view of Koyama and further in view of Tarlton renders the claims obvious. Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention antedates Tarlton (U.S. Publication 2005/0027523). The earliest filing date of Tarlton is July 31, 2003. Filed herewith is a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 antedating Tarlton. In support thereof and filed herewith as Exhibit A to the Declaration is an invention disclosure establishing conception in the United States prior to July 31, 2003, coupled with reduction to practice of the invention of the pending application. Based on at least the foregoing, any and all rejections based entirely or in part on

Tarlton must be withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that based on at least the foregoing, all of the rejections of Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18, 19 and 24 must be withdrawn.

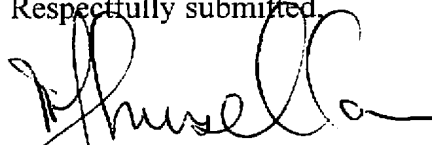
Second, the Examiner relies on Koyama as allegedly teaching inserting at least one variable length pause within the synthesized speech of the uncommon word to increase the duration of the uncommon word. The Examiner's reliance on Koyama is misplaced. Koyama, in section B, teaches that multiple words are input and run together into one word. Koyama uses "word" here to actually describe multiple words that run together. It is only when a word that appears in the word table is 'hit' (see second conditional step in FIG. 3) that a pause is inserted between words, otherwise no pause is inserted. The pause that is inserted in Koyama is actually between words as shown by a comparison of FIG. 3 and its word table. Koyama does not teach or disclose inserting at least one variable length pause within the synthesized speech of the uncommon word to increase the duration of the uncommon word as recited in the claims of the present application.

Based on at least the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 1-3, 9-11, 18, 19 and 24 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1, 9 and 18 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-7, 10-15 and 19-23, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-7, 10-15 and 19-23 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-7, 9-15 and 18-23, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Musella", written over the typed name.

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